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50X1-HUM

INTELLIGENCE 18

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 2 FEB 51

SUBJECT Password System and Signal Mechanism of SNB

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1. The timetable (Sluzebni rozpis) for SNB patrols and guards is drawn up by the commanding officer of each SNB unit in the manner he sees fit and is changed almost daily.
2. A password, which is always a number between 3 and 15 and is used only at night, is issued to all SNB guard units and is known only to SNB patrols. The password is always the same for the entire Czech-German border and is changed every day. On Sunday a list of passwords for the week is furnished to the units.
3. The password is used in the following way: When one SNB patrol meets another, it challenges this patrol, which answers "SNB patrol" (Hlidka SNB). The challenging patrol then asks for the password, and the challenged patrol gives any number between 3 and 15 but not the number which is actually the password. Then the challenging patrol replies by counting to the correct password number. For example, if the password is 11 and the challenged patrol says 7, the challenging patrol answers 8, 9, 10, 11. The patrol leaders then approach each other and exchange service identity cards, while the remaining members of each patrol keep each other covered. This system has the obvious flaw that an imposter can discover the current password if he answers with the number 3 when challenged and the challenging patrol then counts to the correct number.
4. Patrols do not depart from their stations at regular intervals, and the patrol going off duty always returns to the post before the new one leaves since patrols have often fired upon each other. A patrol serves from 9 to 10 hours and covers an area of 25 to 30 km. When a guard is posted at a particular place, he remains there between 6 and 8 hours according to the weather and returns to the post before his relief leaves it. Some patrols are accompanied by dogs, which are not well trained. If shots are heard, no alert signal is given because frequently patrols have fired upon one another.
5. Points most closely guarded are bridges, road intersections and forest clearings. Important posts are fortified, connected with field telephones and equipped with searchlights. (Places not easily accessible to patrols are protected by a signal mechanism of Soviet origin, type "Petrov", described as follows:

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- [a. This mechanism consists of a bakelite casing 6" x 5", which contains a flat rocket battery, an electromagnet, a spring contact and a regulating screw with a scale from 1 to 25. On the outside of the casing is a contact with a ring.
- b. By means of a belt the casing is fixed to a tree at a height of 1.20 - 1.50 m above the ground to prevent contact with animals, and a silk thread from the ring is tied to another tree. If this thread is touched, the mechanism begins to buzz, and the signal is received at the GMB station, where a small flap bearing the number of the mechanism appears in a similar fashion as on a hand-operated telephone switchboard. Then the nearest guard post is notified by telephone to investigate this particular place. Such signal can be received from a distance of up to 6 km.)

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